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November 14, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TWA325
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentations
WT Docket No. 12-69**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 9, 2012, Michele Farquhar and the undersigned, representing Vulcan Wireless LLC ("Vulcan"), together with C Spire Wireless ("C Spire") representatives Benjamin Moncrief and Eric Graham, met with William Stafford, Nicole McGinnis, Nese Guendelsberger, Maria Kirby, James Schlichting, Tom Tran, Donald Johnson, and Tom Peters of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("WTB"). Vulcan representatives Scott Wills and Paul Kolodzy and C Spire representative Doug Hyslop participated in the meeting by telephone.

As detailed in the attached slides, the participants explained that 700 MHz licensees can restore interoperability on installed equipment in the Lower 700 MHz band through a routine software update. Neither deployed base stations nor existing user equipment would require any hardware changes. For devices sold to consumers after the effective date of the order, the only physical element to change would be the incorporation of a new filter component to replace the existing one. Following the effective date of an Order in this proceeding, the new filter component would become common to all new devices in the Lower 700 MHz A, B, and C Blocks. Since it would be used in all devices, the new filter will not result in any cost increases and may result in cost reductions due to economies of scale across the larger base of deployed devices. No other hardware changes are required to any components. The result of this process would be the restoration of interoperability in the Lower 700 MHz band and an end to the use of two separate band specifications that currently bifurcate operations across the three paired channels in the Lower 700 MHz band.

The representatives also discussed market developments that make acting now to restore interoperability imperative. Without prompt action, A Block licensees who currently use Band Class 12 to deploy their networks will fall further and further behind in both the developmental ecosystem for new features and functions, such as Voice over LTE, and in the global supply chain for incorporation and use in the latest and most advanced handsets and consumer devices. Timely and geographically expansive broadband deployment in the United States would suffer as a result and so would consumers.

The Vulcan and C Spire representatives next noted the extraordinary nature of the situation confronting the Commission in the Lower 700 MHz band. Band Classes have historically *expanded* over time to incorporate more spectrum into the developmental ecosystem and accelerate access to the global supply chain. Never before has a common band specification *contracted* to exclude a portion of the band from those benefits. In this unique situation, the Commission can and should act to remedy the competitive and consumer harms resulting from the use of a carrier-specific band plan. A dominant

carrier, such as AT&T, should not be permitted to continue to use its purchasing power to frustrate scale economies and prevent competitors from providing timely broadband services to the public. Instead, the FCC should adopt an interoperability requirement that applies to both base stations and user equipment and ensures that a technology-neutral, unified band class exists throughout the Lower 700 MHz A, B and C Blocks.

Finally on November 13, 2012, Michele Farquhar and the undersigned spoke briefly by phone to Louis Peraertz, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, and Renee Wentzel, Legal Advisor to Chairman Genachowski. We shared a copy of the attachment and reviewed the issues discussed above in abbreviated form. This notice is filed pursuant section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules. Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Trey Hanbury

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cc: Nese Guendelsberger
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Tom Peters
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William Stafford
Tom Tran
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Interoperability Effect on Device Capabilities & Requirements

With interoperability, new mobile devices would be technically capable of communicating across any network that deploys A, B or C Block base stations. All existing mobile devices would be unaffected and continue to work as they do today.

Keys Components	Requirements Impact	Cost Impact
Antenna	No Change	None
Duplex Filter	New component becomes common to all Lower 700 MHz mobile devices	None – production and installation of alternative duplex filter imposes no additional costs at scale
Power Amplifier	No Change	None
Low Noise Amplifier	No Change	None
Base Band Hardware	No Change	None
Base Band Software	Band 12 vs. Band 17 Software	None – software loaded as part of manufacturing process

Interoperability Effect on Base Station Capabilities and Requirements

With interoperability, Lower 700 MHz base stations that operate on either A, B or C Blocks would be upgraded, via a routine software update, to enable communications with all Lower 700 MHz mobile devices supporting the same air interface technology.

Key Components	Requirements Impact	Cost Impact
Antenna	No Change	None
Duplex Filter	No Change	None
Power/Low Noise Amplifier	No Change	None
Base Band Hardware	No Change	None
Base Band Software	A one-time software upgrade to accept all A, B and C Block Channel Numbering	None – accomplished during routine software update cycle
Network Control	No Change	None

Interoperability Effect on Currently Deployed Network Capabilities & Requirements

- With interoperability, current network radio frequency designs and deployments would remain unchanged.
- All new Lower 700 MHz mobile devices would be technically capable of communicating with all A, B and C Block networks.

Deployment Considerations	Requirements Impact	Cost Impact
Cell Tower Proximity to Channel 51 Transmitters	No change – testing shows no changes required	None – Band 12 and Band 17 3GPP specifications are currently identical for managing potential interference from Channel 51 transmissions
Cell Tower Proximity to E Block Transmitters	No change – testing shows no changes required; Band 12 devices comply with Band 17 3GPP specifications with respect to E Block	None